



COMING MEETINGS
 1 May Linda Mayo
 Red Cross Emergency Service Voluntary Recruitment

 8 May

 15 May

 22 May

 29 May

Rotary Club of Cooma

Theme:

Maternal & Baby Health Month

24 April

Nancy Groves – Lifegate Foodcare

Meeting statistics: 24 of 34 = 70.5%
Attendance:
Visiting Rotarians: Peter Bascombe (Ginninderra)
Guests:
 Nancy Groves (Club), Roger Wheatley (Jan)
Apologies: John Ch, Brad, John Cl, Jeanette, Peter D, Alan D, John K, Sue S, Penny
Leave: David B, Brenda
We also missed:

Please advise Darrell (Ph 0407 411 422, 64521159, dgcooma@bigpond.net.au) of apologies for the coming meeting, also if you are bringing a guest. Failure to advise of absence will incur a dinner cost.

Significant Dates:

Birthdays: April
 6th John Ch, 15th Des, 17th Geoff

Date Joined Rotary:
 Nil

ROSTERS FOR May 2019

Attendance		Darrell Katrin
Property		Dave Holgate Sue
Fellowship		Peter Elaine S
Thought	1st	Tony
	8th	Elaine Mooney
	15th	Ash
	22nd	Jeannette
	29th	John Ch
3 Minuter	1st	Kevin
	8th	John Cl
	15th	Richard H
	22nd	Mark JN
	29th	Brenda
Intro	1st	Geoff
	8th	Marco
	15th	Des
	22nd	Ash
	29th	Sandra
Thanks	1st	Jeanette
	8th	Katrin
	15th	Dugald
	22nd	Glenys
	29th	Marco
Markets	21st May	Terry, Sue, Robin
	Food Van	Ash, Allan D, Brenda, Jan
	Coffee Van	Mark J.N, Brian, ?



Announcements

Mark JN

There have been three applications to attend the May 2019 RYPEN session.

Terry

The markets were held in great weather, which provided a goodly number of attendees. There were a total of 40 stalls, 35 regular and 5 charities. There was a nett total from stalls and BBQ of \$2446.19, the coffee van raised \$313 and the Wishing Well provided \$40 for the Parkinson's Foundation.



Thought of the Week – Glenys

To acquire knowledge one must study but to acquire wisdom one must observe.



3 Minuter – Peter B

Peter was born and raised in Melbourne. Australian Rules Football is his sport of choice and he supports the Richmond Tigers. He attended the 2017 Grand Final, which Richmond won after a 37 year drought.



Following a completion of an undergraduate degree, he started work as a Forester, then he followed-up with a post graduate degree in IT. He expected to return the forestry work utilising this new degree but ended up moving in the computer industry instead. After working for Ansett Airlines and other major computer companies, in 1983 he opened his own business. Peter also worked as a casual lecturer in forestry at the University of Melbourne and as a tenured lecturer in IT at Charles Sturt University.

He and his wife had a holiday house in Beechworth, so following the birth of their first child, they moved to Beechworth permanently and he moved his office to Albury/Wodonga. He ran this business for 13 years and had a client base all across Australia, with the exception of Western Australia. He had developed a niche software package, which was in use by 40% of the market. In 1995, he was approached by two different companies who wanted to buy the product from him. He chose a company which had offices in the relevant capital cities who he thought would continue to serve his client base in the same way he had.

He had a business client/friend visiting Beechworth from Townsville and during a tour of the city, Peter was telling this visitor about the activities he was involved in, including being the president of the swimming club, vice-president of the tennis club, secretary of the school board and first lieutenant of the fire brigade. His friend suggested Peter should be being paid for all of those activities and recommended he join the local government – so he did.

Peter is currently working for his sixth council. He advised it will take time to bed-down the new Snowy River Regional Council and from the perspective of the community it will be a generational change. Currently the new Council is all about change. On Friday 26th April, the Draft Operational Plan for the region was released. The community has 28 days to make comment on the new Plan and Peter encouraged everyone to have a look at the documents and to make comment as community comment will help develop the final plan.

Guest Speaker – Nancy Groves – Lifegate Foodcare

Foodcare was opened with assistance and support from Council about five year's age. The mandate of Lifegate Foodcare is to provide low cost and free grocery items to low income earners.



In five years they have signed up 525 individuals and in the past month have averaged 65 hampers per week and 125 different people have accessed the service. At the moment they average four new members per week.

Food is provided as a hamper and people choose their own hampers. The types of items provided include fruit, vegetables and bread. Some items are free but the cost of hampers range from \$8 to \$21. They also provide emergency hampers if required. In the past five weeks there have been 16 emergency hampers provided.

A recent survey revealed the atmosphere and volunteers were the client's favourite parts about Foodcare. They want people to have the opportunity to retain their dignity. Clients include people who haven't eaten for a couple of days, people who can't access Centrelink benefits and people who feel ashamed at having to access this type of service.

The clients choose their own groceries and every client is valued and respected. When people come to Foodcare, it is not only for the food but also for the social interaction it provides and they have toys for children to play with while their parent has a cup of tea and a chat with the volunteers.

Their survey and communication with clients indicate that more fruit, veggies, bread, meat, eggs and dairy products would be appreciated. One of the reasons these groceries are not readily available is a lack of access to affordable transport to get the goods to Cooma. The current cost of transporting one pallet is \$190.

They could provide more assistance if there was more storage space and more volunteers. They have also been made aware that some people cannot access the services offered due to lack of transport.

It is not only food that Foodcare provide, they also refer to other agencies, offer a non-judgemental ear for people to share their stories and needs. There is also a small budget to help those people who have fallen through the cracks.

The dream of Foodcare is to move into a new building, have access to cold food, extend their services to Bombala and Jindabyne and be open more days per week. They would also like to be able to provide clothing at no more than \$1 per item.

The service is available on Thursdays from 9.30am to 5.30pm.

